



CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITY: READING AN ICE CORE

OBJECTIVES: Students will:

- + Describe briefly the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets;
- + Illustrate how information on ancient climates is preserved in ice cores;
- + Interpret an ice core from the Greenland Ice Record and
- + Simulate ice core formation.

MATERIALS:

- + World Map
- + **Student Sheets**
- + Paper and Pencil
- + Research materials

PROCEDURE:

1. Review the information in the Introduction section and in the time line included with this activity.
2. Explain to students that their job is to interpret the information in the ice core drawing and answer the questions in the **INTERPRETATION** and **ANALYSIS/CONCLUSIONS** sections.
3. Once students understand the process and the importance of the layering in ice cores they are to create a timeline of their own.
 - + The timeline should highlight events from their favorite period in history.
 - + Research materials, Internet and library resources should be available.
 - + The ice core may be as long or as short as they wish, but it must contain at least 8 pieces of information related to events that occurred in their chosen time period.

Teacher Sheet 2

-  The scientific validity of the information in the false ice core is not the issue. The goal here is to simulate the process of recording of information in ice and use it to “paint a picture” of a specific period in time.
-  Illustration and/or written information may be used in their finished piece.